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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES
306 U. S. Court House, Portland 5, Oregon

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1950
(March 1, 1950)

The acreage of principal spring planted field crops (excluding hay) in Oregon this year is expected to be about 3 per cent above the 1949 acreage and about 13 per cent above average according to reports of farmers to the Crop Reporting Service. A 30 per cent increase in the barley acreage (including fall seeded) more than offset the following decreases: spring wheat down 17 per cent; corn down 10 per cent; flaxseed down 56 per cent; dry field peas down 17 per cent; and potatoes down 5 per cent. Seeded acreage of oats (including fall), forecast at 443,000, is unchanged from the 1949 seeded acreage. Washington and Idaho farmers also expect to increase their spring planted acreages with increases indicated for both States in oats, barley, and potatoes. The indicated spring wheat acreage for all of Idaho is the same as last year's plantings but a substantial increase is indicated for northern Idaho. Increases of total spring planted acreages in all three States was made possible by the curtailed seedings of winter wheat as a result of acreage allotments

A 3 per cent increase is expected in the acreage of all hay to be cut in Oregon and Idaho this year, while the State of Washington expects a 6 per cent increase.

The very dry conditions last fall in eastern Oregon delayed seedings of winter wheat and in many instances caused farmers to hold the acreage over for spring seeding. As a result the acreage to be seeded to spring wheat is well above average even though it is much short of last year. The spring wheat acreage in 1949 was unusually high because of heavy reseedings as a result of erosion and winter kill. Due to good protection from snow during the extremely cold weather and because runoff was not so rapid, losses of winter wheat have not been large to date. Heavy snowfall during the winter has largely offset the dry conditions of last fall. However, some areas in southeastern Oregon are still below normal in moisture supply. In western Oregon most fall planted acreages survived the unusually cold weather of January and early February due to protection from the heavy snow cover. Here, too, melting and runoff was not rapid enough for excessive erosion. Most parts of the State report ample irrigation water for the coming season. The acreage actually planted to spring crops in 1950 may turn out to be larger or smaller than now indicated because of weather conditions, or changes in plans of producers due to price changes, labor supply, the agricultural program, etc. The table which follows summarizes planting intentions in Oregon and neighboring States:

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - OREGON AND THE NORTHWEST

	Average 1939-48			Planted Acreages		
	Acreage Planted (000 Acres)	Yield per Planted Acre Average	Unit	1949 Thous. Acres	Indicated 1950 Thous. Acres	1950 as per cent of 1949 Per cent
SPRING WHEAT						
Oregon	203	21.4	Bu.	297	247	83
Washington	746	21.4	"	607	577	95
North Idaho 1/	57	-	"	62	72	116
Pac. N.W. 1/	1,006	-	"	966	896	93
CORN						
Oregon	45	33.8	Bu.	31	28	90
Washington	24	44.8	"	17	19	112
Idaho	38	42.9	"	35	33	95
Total 3 States	107	-	"	83	80	96
OATS						
Oregon	438	22.0	"	443	443	100
Washington	270	27.9	"	218	227	104
Idaho	217	34.4	"	203	254	125
Total 3 States	925	-	"	864	924	107
BARLEY						
Oregon	305	28.3	"	326	424	130
Washington	190	31.6	"	107	235	220
Idaho	330	33.5	"	305	396	130
Total 3 States	825	-	"	738	1,055	143
ALL HAY 2/						
Oregon	1,106	1.76	Ton	1,077	1,109	103
Washington	917	1.95	"	844	895	106
Idaho	1,152	2.09	"	1,121	1,155	103
Total 3 States	3,175	-	"	3,042	3,159	104
FLAXSEED						
Oregon	5	3/10.4	Bu.	9	4	44
Washington	3	3/11.0	"	2	1	50
Montana	226	6.1	"	95	57	60
California	171	17.8	"	197	69	35
Total 4 States	405	-	"	303	131	43
PEAS - DRY FIELD 4/						
Oregon	26	1,328	Lb.	18	15	83
Washington	232	1,216	"	187	131	70
Idaho	138	1,163	"	95	76	80
Total 3 States	396	-	"	300	222	74
BEANS - DRY EDIBLE 4/						
Washington	4	1,136	"	6	15	250
Idaho	138	1,527	"	151	136	90
California 5/	358	1,268	"	363	305	84
Total 3 States	500	-	"	520	456	88
POTATOES						
Oregon	43	237	Bu.	42	40	95
Washington	38	233	"	36	37	102
Idaho	156	234	"	145	160	110
Total 3 States	237	-	"	223	237	106

1/ Excludes Southern Idaho. 2/ Acreage harvested. 3/ Short time average
4/ Includes acreage grown for seed. 5/ Includes Limas.

UNITED STATES: For the country as a whole, a relatively large acreage of spring-sown crops is in prospect for 1950. The increase in the total of 17 crops (including hay) for which prospective acreages are estimated, is from 274.2 million acres in 1949 to 277.9 million acres this season. In terms of total planted acreage, this increase is more than offset, however, by the large decline in winter wheat seeded last fall. Declines in acreages are large for corn and spring wheat, small for peanuts, dry beans, rice, potatoes and tobacco; all these are crops for which acreage allotments will be in effect in 1950. Other declines are planned in flax and dry peas. But more than offsetting these declines are intended increases in oats, barley, soybeans, sorghums, hay, sugar beets, sweet potatoes and cowpeas. Spring activities are normal to advanced over most of the country, though checked somewhat by cold March weather. Soil moisture is satisfactory, except in the southern Great Plains. Irrigation water supplies are mostly adequate, the chief exception being in New Mexico, Arizona, and Nevada.

Principal crops "planted or grown" in 1950 may total nearly 359 million acres, allowing for duplications and for numerous crops not yet surveyed. This would be about 10½ million acres less than in 1949, also less than in 1948, 1944, and 1943, but would exceed the total in any other year since 1937. The peak period was in 1930-33, when the range was 369.5 to 375.5 million acres.

Feed grains may be planted on nearly 4 million acres more than in 1949, according to present plans. But this 2½ per cent increase in acreage may not bring about an increase in production. The prospective acreage of corn is 5 million acres less than planted in 1949, with most of the reduction in the high-yielding Corn Belt and adjacent States. Furthermore, per acre tonnages of the grains which are being increased are not as large as for corn. Increases of nearly 3½ million acres of oats, over 2½ million acres of barley and nearly 3 million acres of sorghums raise the feed grain aggregate acreage above that of 1949. On the basis of 1944-48 average yields per acre, the prospective 1950 feed grain acreage would produce about 113⅓ million tons, or 10 per cent less than the 126 million tons in 1949. Hay acreage is indicated at about 2½ million acres more than in 1949 and slightly above average. This not only provides for slightly increased numbers of hay-consuming livestock and for replenishing low reserves in some areas, but also absorbs some of the acreage adjustments in other crops.

A sharp decline in food grain acreage is in prospect, compared with 1949. Winter wheat acreage was reduced 15 per cent and prospective spring wheat is down 12.5 per cent. If yields of spring wheat should be at the 1944-48 average, about 1,185 million bushels of all wheat may be produced in 1950. Allotment acreages were originally designed to obtain production of 1,125 million bushels, but were later liberalized. A reduction of 10.5 per cent in rice acreage is in prospect. Rye was sown last fall on an eighth larger acreage than the previous fall.

Among the oilseeds, a sharp increase of 18 per cent for soybeans is indicated by the prospective 13.5 million acres grown alone, but flax acreage will decline by nearly 1.2 million acres or 22.5 per cent, and peanuts by about 359,000 acres, one-eighth below the 1949 level. Potato acreage will be about 62,000 less. Dry beans are under allotment and the acreage will be down 222,000 acres, about one-eighth, while the reduction of 86,000 acres in dry peas is nearly one-fourth. The planned increase of 211,000 acres would bring sugar beet acreage up more than a fourth above that of 1949.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT: UNITED STATES

CROP	PLANTED ACREAGES: Average 1939-48	1949	Indicated 1950	1950 as pct. of 1949
	Thousands			Per cent
Corn, all	89,825	87,910	82,765	94.1
All spring wheat	18,072	22,559	19,727	87.4
Durum	2,623	3,693	3,260	88.3
Other spring	15,450	18,866	16,467	87.3
Oats	42,891	44,525	47,964	107.7
Barley	14,713	11,208	13,879	123.8
Flaxseed	3,869	5,199	4,027	77.5
Rice	1,451	1,839	1,645	89.5
Sorghums for all purposes	16,635	11,754	14,568	123.9
Potatoes	2,718	1,924	1,862	96.8
Sweetpotatoes	690	548	603	110.0
Tobacco 1/	1,650	1,626	1,582	97.3
Beans, dry edible	2,022	1,900	1,678	88.3
Peas, dry field	496	367	281	76.6
Soybeans 2/	12,059	11,409	13,500	118.3
Cowpeas 2/	2,241	1,177	1,192	101.3
Peanuts 2/	3,634	2,929	2,570	87.7
Hay 1/	74,470	72,835	75,091	103.1
Sugar beets	851	769	980	127.4

1/ Acreage harvested. 2/ Grown alone for all purposes.

Released: Portland, Oregon
March 22, 1950

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Acting in Charge

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